



# A Sankofa Moment

Looking Back to Understand Race and Democracy Moving Forward

Jeanelle Austin  
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Racial Agency Initiation



# Democracy & Race - Timeline Overview

## Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

- Former slaves join Union ranks to fight for freedom. Many also expressed “Black Rage” too.

## 13th (1865), 14th (1868), & 15th (1870) Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America

- Black people were placed on a leash by the 13th amendment but given citizenship, voting rights, and the right to hold public office in the 14th and 15th amendments.

## Jim Crow Laws from (1865-1968) and *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)

- Black people lived in a state of fear and terror as white supremacy was enforced by extra-legal action.



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## Chinese Exclusion Act (1882/1924)

- Chinese people were prevented from immigrating to US and could not obtain citizenship.

## Marijuana Tax Act (1937)

- Moral panic was used to criminalize marijuana and target black and Mexican people.

## Executive Order 8802: Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry (1941)

- A. Philip Randolph was a black civil rights community organizer and activist responsible for this order. Many blacks were upset that their loyalty to the US was repeatedly dismissed.



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## Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)

- Americans and immigrants of Japanese descent were forced to sell property below market rate and relocate to concentration camps, which was a violation of American constitutional rights.

## Civil Rights Act of 1964

- This landmark legislation opened up opportunities for employment, housing, and socioeconomic mobility, but it did not change attitudes or ideologies that were anti-black.

## Controlled Substances Act of 1970 & War on Drugs

- Coined by Nixon and expanded by Reagan, the War on Drugs criminalized certain drugs, targeted black communities, and started mass incarceration.



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## George H.W. Bush - A Republican Moderate

- Bush appointed both Clarence Thomas (conservative Republican) and Colin Powell (moderate Republican), which characterized his middle-of-the road approach to race tensions. His ideologies, however, were not conservative enough for many Republicans, which resulted in a 1-term presidency.

## Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994

- The Clinton Administration accelerated mass incarceration with this act. Meanwhile, many black Democrats coined Clinton as “the first black president.”



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## [Military Order \(11/13/2001\)](#) and Executive Order 13289 [Establishing the Global War on Terrorism Medals](#)

- The terrorist attack of 9/11, followed by the War on Terror, sparked anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiments across America. Though the war itself was controversial, the racial sentiments persisted and even touched Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008.

## [Affordable Care Act \(2010\)](#)

- This controversial, landmark healthcare legislation was not adopted by 19 states, [according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#). Nationwide, the uninsured rates of African Americans improved but remained disproportionately high after the ACA took effect.



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## [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(2012\)](#) and [Deporter in Chief:](#)

- Obama created hope with DACA. He created fear and increased racial profiling with his high deportation rates. The tools at his disposal were built over several administrations.

## Executive Orders: [EO 13765 ACA Repeal](#) and [EO 13768 Enhance Public Safety](#) (2017)

- In Trump's rhetoric and actions are echos of Reagan's ideologies and Nixon verbiage, which generate racial fears. His first acts as president repealed healthcare gains for millions of people who previously did not have healthcare and "enforce[d] immigration laws against all removable aliens."



# Eyes on 2020

## COVID-19 Pandemic in the US: A Recipe for Racial Regression

- Heightened Fear
- Limited Resources
- Threat to the Economy

## The Black Vote

The politician who will truly win the black vote is the person and party that will liberate black life from American racism, and thereby liberate everyone from American racism. But that is not likely to happen in 2020.

  
**How will we move forward with democracy?**





# Jeanelle Austin

Founder | Director | Coach  
[welcome@raiofjustice.com](mailto:welcome@raiofjustice.com)  
[www.raiofjustice.com](http://www.raiofjustice.com)

